

Application Serial No: 09/977,900  
In reply to Office Action of 17 May 2005

Attorney Docket No. 80072

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-7, 11-13, 15, 18 and 19 are currently in the application. Claims 2-7, 11-13, 15, 18 and 19 stand rejected, and no claims are allowed. By this response, claim 13 is amended.

The Examiner rejected claims 2-7, 13, 15, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bookspan et al, United States Patent No. 6,636,888 (hereinafter Bookspan), and Mills.

Regarding claim 5, the Examiner found that Bookspan teaches the use of Microsoft Outlook™ to schedule and synchronize presentation broadcasts across a network. The Examiner stated that Outlook must be installed on every computer on the network in order for a user to receive messages about the presentation (see col. 5, lines 33-41), and controls the presentations by delivering presentation content to audience computers (at col. 22, lines 1-21) and allowing the creator of a broadcast to select the display method for the presentation, which allows for the control of unlike presentations (at col. 11, lines 11-31, since Bookspan teaches the use of Microsoft PowerPoint™ presentations for display to a user, and PowerPoint is well known in the art to allow random transitions between slides in a slide show, therefore making presentation displays different, and the different presentation display options of col. 11, lines

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32-39). Furthermore, the Examiner also found that Bookspan shows installing a set of files to be presented on each of a plurality of computers, including an initial file to be played and an ending file to be played (taught at col. 11, lines 11 -31 as the stored HTML pages for a presentation broadcast, which inherently include the first and last slides in a PowerPoint presentation). He also stated that Bookspan teaches associating playing timing with each set of displayed files such that an effective beginning time and play duration is associated with each file, as well as the start time for each initial file for each instance of the presentation (taught as the ability to select a start time and an end time associated with each presentation, at Fig. 7, and col. 13, lines 20-28). The Examiner found that, inherently, each slide in a PowerPoint presentation is displayed sequentially. The Examiner found that Bookspan teaches running a second plurality of simultaneous and independent executions of the software control program for controlling a second plurality of unlike graphical image displays (taught as the displaying of HTML presentations in browser windows in Fig. 3, which are well known in the art to allow for a plurality of open windows displaying different files), and coordinating a display sequence for each unlike graphical image display (taught inherently by the slide sequence of a PowerPoint presentation).

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The Examiner conceded that Bookspan, however, fails to explicitly teach synchronizing each computer displaying the selected presentation to a common time.

The Examiner found that Mills describes the use of a Network Time Protocol (NTP) for synchronizing the clocks of host computers and routers in the Internet in use since 1992 (referencing Mills, pages 2 and 9), or over a network such as that used by Bookspan.

The Examiner determined that one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Bookspan and Mills before him at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to modify the synchronized broadcast system of Bookspan to include the common time synchronization of Mills in order to obtain a system for the synchronized broadcast of presentations wherein all computers in the network have a common time. The Examiner found motivation to make such a combination for the advantages of synchronization for real-time teleconferencing and presentation broadcasting, transaction journaling and logging, network monitoring, and secure time stamping, among other uses. Attention was directed to Mills at page 4.

Regarding claims 2-4, the Examiner found that Microsoft PowerPoint is well known in the art to allow the inclusion of multiple selectable graphic and audio files of various formats

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in a presentation, which may be different from other graphic or audio files contained therein.

Regarding claim 6, the Examiner determined that Bookspan shows in Fig. 7 the setting of beginning and ending times for a presentation, which therefore sets the effective beginning time and play duration.

Regarding claim 7, the Examiner found that Bookspan teaches determining an effective beginning time (at Fig. 7, as shown supra) and determines a play duration based on a collective time of previous image files and a given play duration time (taught as the use of Windows Media Player to display the presentation, at col. 24, lines 20-28 and col. 16, lines 3-10, which is well known to display in a play list audio or video files to be played, the duration of each file, and the total duration of all files listed).

Regarding claim 13, the Examiner found that Bookspan teaches a read scenario command to read each scenario file of an at least one scenario file (taught as the ability to select a start time and an end time associated with each presentation, at Fig. 7, and col. 13, lines 20-28, which is inherently read by the client program), at least one get image command to retrieve each graphical image file of a respective at least one subset of graphical image files of a respective set of presentation files listed in each scenario file (inherent in the display of the

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presentation), a software timing control operable for coordinating the display of each graphical image file for each of the plurality of computers, at least a first display command to designate a set of presentation files of at least one set of presentation files for a desired one of the first plurality of computers (taught as the ability to select a start time and an end time associated with each presentation, at Fig. 7, and col. 13, lines 20-28). The Examiner also found that Bookspan teaches running a second plurality of simultaneous and independent executions of the software control program for controlling a second plurality of unlike graphical image displays (taught as the displaying of HTML presentations in browser windows in Fig. 3, which are well known in the art to allow for a plurality of open windows displaying different files), and coordinating a display sequence for each unlike graphical image display (taught inherently by the slide sequence of a PowerPoint presentation). The Examiner conceded that Bookspan, however, fails to explicitly teach synchronizing each computer displaying the selected presentation to a common time.

The Examiner found that Mills describes the use of a Network Time Protocol (NTP) for synchronizing the clocks of host computers and routers in the Internet in use since 1992 (referencing Mills, pages 2 and 9), or over a network such as that used by Bookspan.

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The Examiner concluded that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to modify the synchronized broadcast system of Bookspan to include the common time synchronization of Mills in order to obtain a system for the synchronized broadcast of presentations wherein all computers in the network have a common time. The Examiner determined that one would be motivated to make such a combination for the advantages of synchronization for real-time teleconferencing and presentation broadcasting, transaction journaling and logging, network monitoring, and secure time stamping, among other uses. The Examiner referenced Mills, page 4.

Regarding claim 19, the Examiner found that Bookspan teaches the use of Microsoft Outlook to schedule and synchronize presentation broadcasts across a network. Outlook must be installed on every computer on the network in order for a user to receive messages about the presentation (see col. 5, lines 33-41), and controls the presentations by delivering presentation content to audience computers (at col. 22, lines 1-21) and allowing the creator of a broadcast to select the display method for the presentation, which allows for the control of unlike presentations (at col. 11, lines 11-31, since Bookspan teaches the use of Microsoft PowerPoint presentations for display to a user, and PowerPoint is well known in the art

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to allow random transitions between slides in a slide show, therefore making presentation displays different, and the different presentation display options of col. 11, lines 32-39). Furthermore, the Examiner stated that Bookspan shows installing a set of files to be presented on each of a plurality of computers simultaneously running the display control program (Outlook). Bookspan also teaches, according to the Examiner, associating playing timing with each set of displayed files such that an effective beginning time and play duration is associated with each file, as well as the start time for each initial file for each instance of the presentation, and starting the presentation automatically at the predetermined start time shared between the client workstations (taught as the ability to select a start time and an end time associated with each presentation, at Fig. 7, and col. 13, lines 20-28). The Examiner found that, inherently, each slide in a PowerPoint presentation is displayed sequentially. The Examiner stated that Bookspan teaches running a second plurality of simultaneous and independent executions of the software control program for controlling a second plurality of unlike graphical image displays (taught as the displaying of HTML presentations in browser windows in Fig. 3, which are well known in the art to allow for a plurality of open windows displaying different files), and coordinating a display sequence for each unlike

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graphical image display (taught inherently by the slide sequence of a PowerPoint presentation).

The Examiner accepted that Bookspan, however, fails to explicitly teach synchronizing each computer displaying the selected presentation to a common time.

The Examiner found that Mills describes the use of a Network Time Protocol (NTP) for synchronizing the clocks of host computers and routers in the Internet in use since 1992 (see Mills, pages 2 and 9), or over a network such as that used by Bookspan.

In view of this the Examiner determined that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Bookspan and Mills before him at the time the invention was made to modify the synchronized broadcast system of Bookspan to include the common time synchronization of Mills in order to obtain a system for the synchronized broadcast of presentations wherein all computers in the network have a common time. The Examiner found that motivation to make such a combination would be for the advantages of synchronization for real-time teleconferencing and presentation broadcasting, transaction journaling and logging, network monitoring, and secure time stamping, among other uses. Again the Examiner referenced Mills at page 4.



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Regarding claim 15, the Examiner found that the use of random transitions in a PowerPoint presentation as described above guarantees a different sequence of displays among a plurality of computers.

Regarding claim 18, the Examiner stated that Bookspan teaches associating playing timing with each set of displayed files such that an effective beginning time and play duration is associated with each file, as well as the start time for each initial file for each instance of the presentation (taught as the ability to select a start time and an end time associated with each presentation, at Fig. 7, and col. 13, lines 20-28).

The Examiner rejected Claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bookspan, Mills, and Hogle IV, U.S. Patent No. 5,923,307 (hereinafter "Hogle").

Regarding claim 11, the Examiner held that Bookspan and Mills have been shown supra to teach a synchronized presentation display system that allows for unlike presentation displays. However, the Examiner provided Bookspan and Mills do not teach displaying such presentations in a multiple monitor system, or selecting a desired monitor to display a presentation. The Examiner stated that Hogle teaches configuring monitor screen displays in a multiple monitor environment, and furthermore illustrates in Fig. 4 and at col. 1, lines 53-67 the display of application windows specific to a desired monitor, which may be

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moved to another monitor, if desired. The Examiner concluded that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Bookspan, Mills, and Hogle before him at the time the invention was made to modify the synchronized presentation display system of Bookspan and Mills to include the multiple monitor display of Hogle, in order to obtain a presentation display system shown in a multiple monitor environment. Motivation was found by the Examiner for the advantage of reducing screen clutter or allowing the display of multiple large regions simultaneously. The Examiner referenced Hogle, col. 1, lines 42-52.

Regarding claim 12, the Examiner found that Hogle teaches the combining of multiple monitors with separate raster display areas into a composite raster area, at col. 9, lines 43-54. He found that Hogle further teaches a display command for designating a particular monitor for presentation display by setting an x, y coordinate position within the raster area, at col. 9, lines 6-9 and cols. 16-17, lines 61-8.

The Examiner stated that Applicant's arguments filed 30 December 2004 have been fully considered but he considered them not persuasive. In response to Applicant's argument that Bookspan fails to teach providing unlike graphical image displays by the agency of a pre-installed program (applicant's remarks, page 22), the Examiner respectfully disagreed. The

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Examiner stated that Bookspan has been shown to teach unlike graphical image displays through the use of Microsoft PowerPoint's random transitions, as well as through a pre-installed program, as PowerPoint must be present on the client system in order to view the presentation (see col. 5, lines 29-38).

Furthermore, The Examiner stated that the arguments fail to make clear how Bookspan's recitation of "broadcast" teaches away from providing unlike graphical image displays through a pre-installed control program. Thus, the Examiner maintained that the Bookspan reference teaches providing unlike graphical image displays by the agency of a pre-installed program.

These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of these arguments.

Bookspan appears to teach an integrated environment for scheduling a presentation broadcast that allows a user to seamlessly schedule, make changes, replace, and reschedule a presentation broadcast from within a presentation design application program. The system leverages many of the features of Microsoft's Outlook™ program to schedule a network presentation broadcast of a presentation broadcast from within the presentation design application program that is used to create or open the presentation. The user enters information concerning the presentation broadcast while within the

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presentation design application program, which is then automatically inserted into a meeting request message automatically sent to a list of prospective attendees of the presentation broadcast that the user has identified. The meeting request message also contains user-entered scheduling information, which is employed to automatically schedule a presentation broadcast meeting in the electronic calendars of those message recipients who choose to attend the presentation broadcast. The system also automatically schedules the presentation broadcast in the user's electronic calendar, which provides a reminder to the user to start the presentation broadcast a predefined interval before the scheduled time. Additionally, the automated scheduling is implemented for a presentation broadcast that is to originate from an Internet web server.

Hogle, United States Patent No. 5,923,307 appears to teach a computer system that arranges multiple monitors in logical space to form a contiguous and non-overlapping region by determining relative positions in logical space for the monitor spaces, comparing the relative positions of the monitor spaces, and positioning the monitor spaces in logical space based on a result of the comparing. The comparing and positioning may be performed upon initialization of the computer system, or automatically in response to a geometry change (e.g.,

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add/remove/move monitor, change monitor characteristics), or both. Following a monitor geometry change, windows or other graphic objects appearing in the monitor spaces may be positioned as needed to maintain a robust virtual desktop environment.

Applicant provides a computer software program and method for simultaneously playing a programmed sequence of graphics and sound files on each of a plurality of computers which may or may not be networked together, which may or may not be similar computers with similar clock times and processing speeds, and which does not require any hardware changes to any of the plurality of computers. Each computer may control a plurality of different monitors and the present invention permits different presentation displays (e.g., graphics) to be displayed on each of the computer monitors controlled by a particular computer. The present invention provides that a plurality of simultaneously running software control programs simultaneously supports, times, retrieves, and plays files for of the plurality of computer programs to thereby utilize the plurality of computers to produce a synchronized presentation.

Applicant respectfully suggests that Bookspan teaches an application for providing a broadcast of a presentation. Using this application a user can schedule a presentation with users on other computer terminals. Broadcasting is commonly

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understood to be the display of a single presentation at multiple sites, not the coordinated display of multiple presentations at multiple sites as taught and claimed by the Applicant. The Bookspan broadcast commences when sent by the broadcasting computer. (Col. 22, lines 1-21). "The audio/video content is generated as the presentation is performed." (Col. 22, lines 8-9). Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not use a broadcast application such as that taught by Bookspan to show multiple coordinated displays.

Concerning the Examiner's rejection of claim 5, Applicant respectfully suggests that Bookspan does not teach "installing said software control computer program on each of said first plurality of computers for the control of at least one unlike graphical image display by the respective computer" because, while the random transitions feature of PowerPoint provides for display of a different image on each respective computer, the display is random and uncontrolled. Each computer randomly chooses the transition between slides and neither Outlook nor PowerPoint provide control over these transitions. Applicant suggests that Bookspan does not provide for providing and controlling different content on different ones of the first plurality of computers because these "random transitions" aren't content and aren't controlled.

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Applicant further suggests that Bookspan does not teach "associating playing time for each set of files of said at least one set of files on each of said plurality of computers such that an effective beginning time and play duration time is associated with each file of the corresponding at least one set of files" because Bookspan does not associate an effective beginning time and play duration time associated with each file. Bookspan only allows an automatic start time for a single presentation. This is evident by reading the text of Bookspan at Col. 13, lines 22-28. The fields that the Examiner relies on for end time and duration refer to the appointment form of Outlook, not to the duration for showing a presentation by NETSHOW™. Accordingly, Bookspan does not teach this limitation.

Bookspan does not teach coordinating different sets of files among different computers because Bookspan only teaches the use of a single presentation on a multitude of different computers. Unlike claim 5, Bookspan does not disclose synchronizing different presentations on each computer because Bookspan teaches broadcast of a single presentation..

Applicant respectfully suggests that there is no motivation to combine Network Time Protocol with Bookspan. Bookspan teaches a real-time broadcast in which a single presentation is shown by a plurality of computers as it is received or in a non-coordinated fashion on demand by a user of one of the receiving

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computers. Accordingly, one would not think of using NNTP to synchronize the clocks of the receiving computers when the receiving computers will show the broadcast presentation as it is received. In view of these considerations, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claim 5.

Concerning the Examiner's rejection of claims 2-4, Bookspan provides for showing a single presentation on a plurality of computers where each computer shows the same content. Applicant, however, claims providing selections of graphic files stored on each of a plurality of computers. Unlike the system taught by Bookman, this will result in different presentations at each computer. Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-4 by dependency from claim 5.

Concerning the Examiner's assertion that claim 6 shows the beginning and ending times for a presentation, Applicant respectfully suggests that FIG. 7 merely shows the scheduling of a meeting, not the actual ending time of a presentation. This is merely a planned time, not an actual duration. The presentation taught by Bookspan can be extended or shortened by the broadcaster. Unlike Bookspan, Applicant claims a series of files that are each shown for a known duration resulting in a known presentation length.



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Concerning claim 7, Bookspan does not teach using Windows Media Player to display different presentations on a plurality of computers. The assertions by the Examiner concerning claim 7 appear to be a hindsight application of the invention taught by the Applicant into well known tools. Bookspan at the cited locations does not actually teach displaying a different play list of audio or video files on a plurality of computers. As such, claim 7 should be allowed over the prior art.

Concerning claim 13, Applicant has amended this claim to indicate that each display computer has a scenario file. This is a clarification that refers back to the preamble. The "first display command" element has been amended to include the article "one" which was omitted as understood in the original. Punctuation has been corrected in the "time control program" element. While not essential, these corrections promote clearer understanding of the claim.

In view of the Examiner's rejection of claim 13, Applicant respectfully suggests that Bookspan does not teach Applicant's read scenario command, get image command, software timing control, display command or coordinating a display sequence.

Concerning the read scenario command, Bookspan is not capable of controlling different display files on any of the plurality of computers, so such a command could not have a function. Applicant suggests that in view of the prior

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discussion, Bookspan at FIG. 7 and col. 13, lines 20-28, merely teaches selection of a start time for a single broadcast presentation that is shown on a plurality of display computers.

Concerning the get image command, Applicant suggests that Bookman can only show a single presentation on a plurality of computers, whereas Applicant's get image command provides for showing a file listed in the scenario file on the specified computer at the specified time. This can result in multiple different images being shown on the display computers in a coordinated fashion. As such, this is significantly different from the teachings of Bookman.

Concerning the software timing control, Applicant suggests that Bookman merely provides a start time for the single broadcast presentation, whereas Applicant's device allows different images to be shown on each computer in a coordinated fashion.

Concerning the first display command, Applicant suggests that Bookman only teaches designating one presentation file for a plurality of computers, whereas Applicant teaches designating a different group of presentation files for each computer. This again shows the distinction between the broadcast function taught by Bookman and Applicant's coordinated presentations.

Concerning the software control program coordinating a display sequence for controlling unlike graphical image

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displays, Applicant suggests that Bookman does not teach this. Bookman provides for the use of HTML in one window but does not suggest that one can control or coordinate presentations in multiple windows. As such Bookman does not teach or make obvious this element of Applicant's invention.

Concerning claim 19, Applicant agrees that Outlook can be used to broadcast a single presentation to audience computers; however, Applicant suggests that random transitions between slides do not constitute unlike presentations. Random transitions cannot be controlled by Outlook or PowerPoint. Furthermore, random transitions do not serve as a means for distributing different content to different audience computers. While Bookspan teaches providing a file for display to a plurality of audience computers, Bookspan does not teach providing different files to different audience computers. Bookspan teaches providing a start time to the audience computers, but the duration is controlled by the person delivering the presentation, not by Outlook. The other arguments made by Applicant concerning claim 5 are equally applicable to the Examiner's rejection of this claim.

Concerning claim 15, Applicant suggests that the random transitions function of PowerPoint only provides for different transitions between slides. Random transitions does not "guarantee a different sequence of displays" as asserted by the

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Examiner because the slides shown by PowerPoint remain in the same display order. Bookman does not provide a way to vary "said sequences of presentation displays" among the computers.

Concerning the Examiner's rejection of claims 11 and 12 as being unpatentable over Bookspan, Mills and Hogle, Applicant suggests that these claims should be allowable over Bookman as provided above. Applicant further suggests that while the cited sections of Hogle teach utilizing multiple monitors as a desktop extension, Hogle does not teach the claimed "second display command to designate a particular set of presentation display files" to show on "a desired monitor of a multiple monitor computer." Because Bookspan does not disclose use with a multiple monitor system, and Hogle only provides for an extended display, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would not find it obvious to combine these references. Mills offers no suggestion of such a combination either. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully suggests that claims 11 and 12 should be allowable by dependency and over the prior art to Hogle.

Applicant respectfully suggests in view of these remarks that all grounds for rejection and objection have been removed by the foregoing amendment. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are therefore earnestly solicited.

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The Examiner is invited to telephone James M. Kasischke, Attorney for Applicant, at 401-832-4736 if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone call would serve to expedite the prosecution of the subject patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

BRUCE W. STEVENS

13 July 2005

By



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